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## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Application No.: 09/776,021

Filed: February 2, 2001

For: STEGANOGRAPHIC MESSAGING  
THROUGH IMAGERY

Examiner:

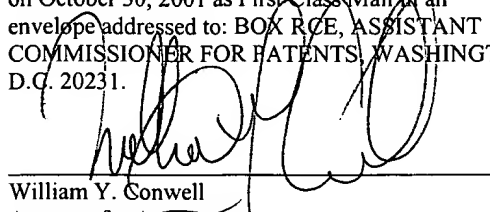
Date: October 30, 2001

Art Unit 2131

Confirmation No. 7386

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on October 30, 2001 as First-Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX RCE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231.

  
William Y. Conwell  
Attorney for Applicant**Preliminary Amendment**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**In the Specification:**

Page 1, delete the paragraph extending between lines 4 through 12, and substitute therefore the following:

--This application is a division of 09/479,304 filed on January 06, 2000, which is a division of 09/172,324 (now Patent 6,064,737) filed on October 13, 1998, which is a division of 08/637,531 (now Patent 5,822,436) filed on April 25, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/534,005 (now Patent 5,832,119) filed on September 25, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/512,993 (now abandoned) filed on August 09, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/508,083 (now Patent 5,841,978) filed on July 27, 1995. Application 09/172,324 is also a continuation-in-part of application 08/438,159, filed May 8, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/327,426 (now Patent 5,768,426) filed on October 21, 1994, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/215,289 (now abandoned) filed on March 17, 1994, which is a continuation-in-part

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